

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2004.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for recognizing that claims 5-11 are allowable, and for the interview conducted on December 21, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that each of claims 1-4 and 12-21, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record.

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 12-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Farley et al., LAN Times Guide to Security and Data Integrity (Farley). The Examiner's rejection on this ground is respectfully traversed.

Among the limitations of independent claims 1 and 12 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record are the requirements that the "updated encrypted key [is delivered] to said wireless access point and to said *plurality* of wireless access terminal devices" (emphasis added) and that "each one of said wireless access point and said plurality of wireless access terminal devices decrypts wireless communications using said updated encrypted key."

Farley discloses, on page 219, that "only . . . a single key for each pair of people" should be used so that communications between each pair of people are secure. Farley also discloses the well known Kerberos system on page 220, where only one secret key is known to each person, and only that person and the central key distribution center know that secret key. More particularly, Farley teaches that a session key is delivered to two devices, Bob and Alice, that use the session key to secure their communications with each other during a communication session between them, and that such key is distributed by the central key distribution center to Alice directly, and to Bob indirectly thorough Alice. While the key management server generates and possesses the session key, Farley does not disclose that the key management server delivers the session key to more than this pair of devices, nor does the central key distribution center uses this session key to communicate with Alice or Bob. Instead, Farley discloses that the central key distribution

center uses Alice's key to send Alice an encrypted communication that contains the session key and a ticket encrypted with Bob's key that also contains the session key. Farley discloses that Alice will decrypt the encrypted communication, thus obtaining the session key, and then forward the encrypted ticket to Bob, so that he may also obtain the session key.

In the present invention, the updated encrypted key is distributed to an access point and a plurality of terminal devices (i.e., more than a pair), so that they can communicate with each other using this updated encrypted key. As required by claim 1, "each one of said wireless access point and said plurality of wireless access terminal devices decrypts wireless communications using said updated encrypted key." Claim 12 contains a similar limitation. Farley fails to disclose these limitations, because Farley does not distribute the session key to more than two devices, and because only the two devices that receive the session key use the session key to communicate with each other. Farley does not disclose that the central key distribution center, which possesses the session key, uses the session key to encrypt or decrypt communications with either Alice or Bob. In the absence of any disclosure or suggestion of these features of the invention, independent claims 1 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-11 and 13-21 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively, and include all the limitations found therein, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 22-25 have been withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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